

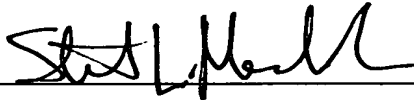
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and ask for an early notice of allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (925) 456-7355.

In the Utility Patent Application Transmittal paper submitted herewith, Applicants have authorized payment of fees for the filing of the new continuation application and the presentation of additional claims. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due, Applicants hereby authorize the Director to charge any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (order no. P131C1-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 12, 2004

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